must be a person who is competent to make that remark. These are the illustrations that I can give.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Are we to understand, Sir, that those who are not specialists in certain subjects are not allowed to make any common remarks, on other subjects than his own special subject?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Oh, yes—whether they are able to maintain them or not. For a layman he cannot. If he does, that is a clear case of incompetency.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I am a layman, as far as educational matters are concerned. Am I competent to make any remark on that subject?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Not "any remarks" I said.

President.—These are almost hypothetical cases.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The word "competent" in the reply is so moulded, at least clouded over the whole question.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is a clear answer.

Remarks in the Visitors' book of the Kuriarkutti Dispensary.

138. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer ordered his subordinate at Kuriarkutti to expunge the remarks made in the Visitors' book by Dr. A. R. Menon;

(1) if so, was it done with the knowledge of the Government;

(2) has the matter come to the notice of the Government;

(3) if so what action the Government has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes.

(1) No.

(2) Yes.

(3) The matter was considered and recorded.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I think Dr. A. G. Menon is competent to make a remark in the Visitors' book.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—You said Dr. A. G. Menon.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I meant Dr. A. R. Menon. Take my case also. I think I am competent.

The answer given to part (3) is "the matter was considered and recorded." Am I to understand that the Government fully endorsed the action of the Chief Medical Officer in respect of the order to his subordinate to expunge the remarks? Am I to understand that the matter was considered and recorded?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Should I answer?

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President.—What is the meaning of "recorded"?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Government thought that no further action was necessary.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Am I to understand that Government approved of the action of the Chief Medical Officer in ordering his subordinate to expunge the remarks?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Take it so.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Am I to understand the attitude of the Government in that light?

President.—What do you mean by "recorded"?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The most unfortunate thing is that this is a medical question. Though I asked about a general question, it is taken to be a medical question. If this question is answered by some other head of the Government, it would have served matters better. As it is, personal elements come into play. So these questions must not be answered by the persons about whom we comment or ask certain questions.

President.—What is the Standing Order?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Section in the Standing Order runs thus. "Final Disposal.—A final disposal is put on a current file when no further information is required for its disposal, or after such further information has been received, and the disposal is such a final order as closes the file, and renders it ready to receive a disposal number and to be indexed and put into the record. 'Recorded' and 'lodged' are forms of final disposal adopted when the paper has simply to be retained in the office and has not to be communicated to any other office. The term 'lodged' is used only in the case of papers of no importance which may be destroyed after a short time."

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That is the difficulty, Sir. My question was whether the Government approves of it. We did not know whether the Government approved of it. When a legislative question comes, it is said it is recorded. Are we to understand that the Government approved of it?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There is no question whether the Government approved of it. There is no such question, and this is the action taken.

President.—Recording may be an approval or may not be an approval.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—So the Government neither approve nor disapprove, but simply recorded.

President.—We say "yes".

Dr. A. G. Menon.—My question was what action Government propose to take. They say they are not going to take any action.

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President.—Have you asked the purport of all these?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—If the question is answered properly, we will have no cause of complaint, and we will not have the necessity of putting so many supplementary questions.

President.—You may say it is not properly answered. It is a matter of difference of opinion.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Certain technical words are introduced in the answers. That is my difficulty. Such as "competent to make", "sufficient reasons", and "recorded".

President.—One Member will bring in a complaint that the answers are full of mistakes. Another, they are evasive; and so on.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I do not deny that.

President.—We are asked so many questions. And the Members say that interpellations are not taken in earnest, answers are evasive, and the Legislative Council is converted into a debating society, and there is no reason for having a Legislative Council at all for this State. My chief attention was drawn to such matters as, that once the Diwan promised, at least Diwan President answered, that steps will be taken, after which questions are put to understand what steps Government has taken. In the answer it is given that it is recorded. I do not know in what light it should be taken.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That is the difficulty with me also.

139. **Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer has issued a general circular to all the institutions under him to the effect that the Visitors' books should not be shown to Dr. A. R. Menon;

(b) if so, was the Government consulted in the matter;

(c) if not, what action does the Government propose to take in the matter?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) Yes; a confidential circular, to have effect "until further orders".

(b) No.

(c) Vide answer to question No. 138. (3).

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Sir, it is said "until further orders" in the answer. Has not that circular been cancelled now?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is not cancelled.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—From question (b) it is seen that the Government was not consulted, and for the next question "what action does the Government propose to take in the matter", the answer given is "the matter was considered and recorded."

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